ITC Fire & Response Update Brief

- On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas.
- The impacted area of the ITC facility consists of fifteen 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, pyrolysis gas and Base Oil.
- Eleven of the fifteen 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways.
- Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from the secondary containment, through an outfall, due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts.
- On March 17, 2019, EPA deployed a Federal On-Scene Coordinator to oversee the Responsible Party's response to the tank fire. EPA joined the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC in Unified Command to respond to this incident.
- March 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm EPA activated Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). ASPECT flies over site at approximately 5:45. ASPECT is the nation's only airborne real-time chemical and radiological detection, infrared and photographic imagery platform. ASPECT consists of a suite of sensors and software mounted in a single engine turboprop aircraft. This system can generate data in a variety of formats to produce scientifically valid products within five minutes of data collection. ASPECT assists local, national, and international agencies supporting hazardous substance response, radiological incidents, and situational awareness.
- EPA mobilized a second OSC on March 17, 2019, to assist in the Response efforts.
- On March 17, 2019 at 5;00 pm, EPA activated the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to respond, and TAGA arrived on March 21, 2019 and began continuous air monitoring in the downwind community daily. TAGA is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and of outdoor air or emissions.
- On March 17, 2019 at ~ 6:00 pm air monitoring, utilizing handheld monitors. began on-site and downwind in the community and has been continuous since implementation.
- On March 20, 2019 at 3:00 am, the fire was extinguished within the tanks. However, reignitions occurred.
- On March 22, 2019, a breach of the secondary containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred, releasing pollutants to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel).
- On March 23, 2019, in consultation with TCEQ, EPA issued the ITC an Administrative Order requiring the facility to comply with a broad Scope of Work, prescribing such efforts as securing the facility to prevent further discharge of chemicals, conducting spill response, and removal of the discharged chemicals and efforts to prevent further hazardous air releases.
- On April 17, 2019, at the request of ITC, with concurrence from TCEQ, and pursuant to EPA's emergency response authorities, EPA authorized the treatment and discharge of the incident-related wastewater from Tank 80-34 through the on-site wastewater treatment system.
- On April 19, 2019, EPA demobilized its ASPECT air monitoring aircraft to return its hanger in Addison, TX. ASPECT has not measured elevated levels of chemicals from ITC during recent overflights.
- EPA continues to oversee ITC's efforts to carry out the work pursuant to that Administrative Order.

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- EPA continues to conduct air monitoring with the TAGA bus and handheld air monitoring teams around the ITC facility and in the communities.
- EPA continues collecting surface water samples along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River, which are analyzed for per- and polyfluoroakyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. Results are compared to TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical. No exceedances have been observed since April 2, 2019.
- As of April 22, 2019, 144,244 bbl of product/water have been recovered from water operations and 240,767 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm.
- The USCG has opened the Houston Ship Channel for normal operations.
- EPA is utilizing the tools available to us and are taking additional steps to make data available to the public, including the Site Response website. One way we are keeping the public informed is through the Story Map Resource, which was created by EPA, in coordination with the TCEQ. The Story Map shows sampling data by location, allowing the public to see what is being measured in their community.
- EPA continues to work with our states, local governments, and federal agencies to develop innovative methods to improve each response.